

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks

The application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed January 10, 2006, and in response to the Advisory Action, mailed March 15, 2006. Claims 1-34 were pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's designation of claims 5-16 and 19-34 as allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4, 17, and 18 stand rejected in view of prior art. For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants believe that all of the remaining claims are patentable over the cited prior art, and therefore respectfully traverse Examiner's rejection.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either U.S. Patent 6,561,275 issued to Glass *et al.* (hereinafter *Glass*) or U.S. Patent No. 6,457,528 issued to Staudt *et al.* (hereinafter *Staudt*).

In the Advisory Action, mailed March 15, 2006, the Examiner argues that the term "valve" is broad enough to include a rupture disc. Given this interpretation of the term "valve," the Examiner argues that Applicants' claim language is broad enough to encompass the cited prior art. Accordingly, to clarify Applicants' claims, amended claim 1 now recites "at least one reclosable pressure relief valve." As the cited prior art only teaches rupture discs, the prior art is inapplicable to Applicants' amended claims, since a rupture disc is clearly not reclosable.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection as to amended independent claim 1.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-4, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either U.S. Patent 6,561,275 issued to Glass *et al.* (hereinafter *Glass*) or U.S. Patent No. 6,457,528 issued to Staudt *et al.* (hereinafter *Staudt*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,697,442 issued to Baldrige *et al.* (hereinafter *Baldrige*) or Great Britain Patent No. 2,171,436 issued to Mikolajczyk *et al.* (hereinafter *Mikolajczyk*).

Applicants respectfully traverse on the basis of the amended claims, because the cited prior art fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, in that the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. See MPEP § 2142. In particular, amended independent claim 1 recites "at least one reclosable pressure relief valve." Rather than disclosing

a “valve,” *Glass* and *Staudt* are directed to a “rupture disc.” Rupture discs are not reclosable. Accordingly, neither *Glass* nor *Staudt* teach or suggest “at least one reclosable pressure relief valve” used for annular pressure relief. Additionally, *Baldridge* and *Mikolajczyk* also fail to supply this missing recitation.

Accordingly, the cited references cannot form a proper basis for a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the cited references fail to supply each and every limitation of independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection as to dependent claims 2-4, 17, and 18, which depend from independent claim 1.

IV. No Waiver

All of Applicants’ arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Applicants have merely discussed example distinctions from the cited references. Other distinctions may exist, and Applicants reserve the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a later Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. By not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner’s additional statements. The example distinctions discussed by Applicants are sufficient to overcome the anticipation and obviousness rejections.

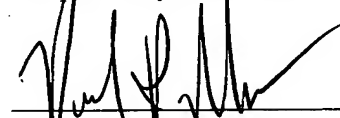
SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants have enclosed check no. 960950 in the amount of \$790.00 for the RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.117(e). Should the Commissioner deem that any additional fees are due, including any additional fees for extensions of time, the Commissioner is authorized to debit Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 02-0383, Order Number 063718.0427, for any underpayment of fees that may be due in association with this filing.

Date: April 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Paul R. Morico
Registration No. 35,960
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002-4995
Telephone: 713.229.1732
Facsimile: 713.229.7732
email: paul.morico@bakerbotts.com